

## § 603.6

## 20 CFR Ch. V (4-1-02 Edition)

the requesting agency to be needed in verifying eligibility for, and the amount of, benefits. Standardized formats established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture) will be adhered to by the State unemployment compensation agency. (Section 1137(a)(4)).

### § 603.6 Agreement between State unemployment compensation agency and requesting agency.

(a) The State unemployment compensation agency will enter into specific written agreements with any requesting agency as defined in this part.

(b) The agreements will include, but need not be limited, to the following:

(1) The purposes for which requests will be made and the specific information needed;

(2) Identification of all agency officials, by position, with authority to request information;

(3) Methods and timing of the requests for information, including the format to be used, and the period of time needed to furnish the requested information;

(4) Basis for establishing the reporting periods for which information will be provided;

(5) Provisions for determining appropriate reimbursement from the requesting agency for the costs incurred in providing data, including any new developmental costs associated with furnishing data to the requesting agency and calculated in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-87;

(6) Safeguards to ensure that information obtained from the State unemployment compensation agency will be protected against unauthorized access or disclosure. At a minimum, such procedures will comply with the requirements of § 603.7.

(c) The requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section shall also apply to requesting agencies receiving information from a State unemployment compensation agency in another State and shall be administered by the State unemployment compensation agency disclosing the information (section 1137(a)(4) and (a)(7)).

### § 603.7 Protection of confidentiality.

(a) State unemployment compensation agencies shall require requesting agencies receiving information under this part to comply with the following measures to protect the confidentiality of the information against unauthorized access or disclosure:

(1) The information shall be used only to the extent necessary to assist in the valid administrative needs of the program receiving such information and shall be disclosed only for these purposes as defined in this agreement;

(2) The requesting agency shall not use the information for any purposes not specifically authorized under an agreement that meets the requirements of § 603.6;

(3) The information shall be stored in a place physically secure from access by unauthorized persons;

(4) Information in electronic format, such as magnetic tapes or discs, shall be stored and processed in such a way that unauthorized persons cannot retrieve the information by means of computer, remote terminal or other means;

(5) Precautions shall be taken to ensure that only authorized personnel are given access to on-line files;

(6)(i) The requesting agency shall instruct all personnel with access to the information regarding the confidential nature of the information, the requirements of this part, and the sanctions specified in State unemployment compensation laws against unauthorized disclosure of information covered by this part, and any other relevant State statutes, and

(ii) The head of each State agency shall sign an acknowledgment on behalf of the entire agency attesting to the agency's policies and procedures regarding confidentiality.

(b) Any requesting agency is authorized to redisclose the information only as follows:

(1) Any wage or claim information may be given to the individual who is the subject of the information;

(2) Information about an individual may be given to an attorney or other duly authorized agent representing the individual if the individual has given written consent and the information is needed in connection with a claim for

benefits against the requesting agency; and

(3) Any wage or claim information may be given to another requesting agency as defined in this part or to any criminal or civil prosecuting authorities acting for or on behalf of the requesting agency if provision for such redisclosure is contained in the agreement between the requesting agency and the State unemployment compensation agency.

(c) The requesting agency shall permit the State unemployment compensation agency to make onsite inspections to ensure that the requirements of State unemployment compensation laws and Federal statutes and regulations are being met (section 1137(a)(5)(B)).

**§ 603.8 Obtaining information from other agencies and crossmatching with wage information.**

(a) The State unemployment compensation agency shall obtain such information from the Social Security administration and any requesting agency as may be needed in verifying eligibility for, and the amount of, benefits.

(b) To the extent that such information shall be determined likely to be productive in identifying ineligibility for benefits and preventing incorrect payments, the State unemployment compensation agency shall crossmatch quarterly wage information with unemployment benefit payment information (section 1137(a)(2)).

(c) To the extent necessary, the United States Department of Labor may amplify on the requirements for state compliance with this section in instructions issued and published for comment in the FEDERAL REGISTER under the provisions of section 1137(a)(2) of the Social Security Act.

**§ 603.9 Effective date of rule.**

The effective date of this subpart A rule is May 29, 1986, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, may by waiver grant a delay in this effective date if the State submits within 90 days of publication of this rule in final form a plan describing a good faith effort to comply with the requirements of section 1137 (a) and

(b) of the Social Security Act through but not beyond September 30, 1986.

**Subpart B—Quarterly Wage Reporting**

**§ 603.20 Effective date of rule.**

The requirement that employers in a State report quarterly wage information to a State agency (which may be the State unemployment compensation agency), is effective September 30, 1988 (section 1137(a)(3)).

**§ 603.21 Alternative system.**

The Secretary of Labor (in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture) may waive the provision that employers in a State are required to make quarterly wage reports to a State agency if the Secretary determines that the State has in effect an alternative system which is as effective and timely for purposes of providing employment related income and eligibility data for the purposes described in section 1137 of the Social Security Act. Criteria for such waiver and the date for submitting requests for such waiver will be issued, if necessary, by the United States Department of Labor and published for comment in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

**PART 604—REGULATIONS FOR BIRTH AND ADOPTION UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**

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